margin of 28.9 per cent. The Designated Authority terminated investigation into the allegation of dumping of Styrene Butadiene Rubber as no injury to the domestic industry could be made out.

The Designated Authority is required to satisfy itself about prima facie evidence of dumping, injury to the domesic industry and a casual link between the dumped imports and the alleged injury, before deciding to initiate an anti-dumping investigation.

BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR PLANTATION CROPS

2369. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Commerce Ministry has suggested budgetary support in 1994-95 for increasing the competitiveness of our plantation crop exports like cashew-nuts and tobacco;

(b) whether it is a fact that primary producers of tobacco and cashewnuts in Andhra Pradesh have been representing their problems to Government; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to aid their plantation crop, so as to enhance their competitive advantage in exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh have represented about lower price realisations at the auctions during 1993, and for bigger crop size for tobacco for the 1993 crop.

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture has a number of schemes to increase the production and productivity of raw cashewnuts. These include :

(i) production and supply of quality planting material;

(ii) replantation programme;

(iii) popularising scientific cultivation ;

(iv) scheme for plantation in wastelands;

Tobacco Board has the following programmes for tobacco :

(i) continued implementation of development schemes to improve the yield and quality of tobacco;

(ii) disseminate latest research findings to growers through training, extension and study tours;

(iii) monitor pesticide residues and take necessary corrective steps.

Introduction of unified exchange rate, doing away with compulsory pre-shipment inspection on the export of agricultural commodities subject to certain conditions are some of the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of these commodities at competitive level. Apart from this, various Commodity Boards, Export Promotion Councils, participate in exhibitions abroad and arrange buyer-seller meets to have inter-action with importers in other countries. In addition, these organisations sponsor delegations to countries which have potential for improving exports.

NEW ORIENTATION TO TOBACCO BOARD

2370. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to give a new orientation to the Tobacco Board;

(b) whether the Tobacco Board has been unable to cope with the requirements of the traders and farmers;

(c) whether it is a fact that farmers and traders have to constantly represent their problems to Government; and

(d) what steps are being taken to review the functioning of the Tobacco Boards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) As a result of uncertainties in some of our major markets, the global oversupply situation, and the anti-smoking campaign the world over the tobacco sector has in the last two years been faced with a difficult situation. The Tobacco Board has done a good job in helping he farmers and the tobacco trade in grappling with these problems Task Force Export Status of Plantation successfully.

TASK FORCE FOR EXPORT STATUS OF PLANTATION CORP

2171. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to assign a Task Force the job to improve export status of any plantation crop;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of our plantation crops are not faring well in international market due to competition; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Government is not considering any proposal to assign to a Task Force the job to improve export status of any plantation corp.

(c) Export performance of the main plantation crops in the international market for the last three years has been as under :

Export Earnings.
(Rs. in crores).

Year	Coffee	Tea	Cardamom
1990–91	278.89	1045.41	15.77
1991–92	349.00	1212.27	20.83
1992–93	381.27	993.40	14.87

(d) Coffee : It would be seen from the above figures that in spite of depression in international price, export performance of Coffee has been showing upward trend.

Tea : Tea exports during 1992-93 suffered owing to lower intake by Russia and other CIS countries due to their economic problems.

Exports during April-October, 1993 are higher as compared to exports during the corresponding period of 1992.

Cardamom : Cardamom exports during 1992-93 suffered due to high domestic price as compared to international price, low production and less import by Saudi Arabia.